



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/710,042	11/08/2000	Stefaan Valere Albert Coussement	P4643	4522
24739	7590	06/22/2006	EXAMINER	
CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY PO BOX 187 AROMAS, CA 95004			VU, THONG H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2142	

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/710,042

Applicant(s)

COUSSEMENT, STEFAAN
VALERE ALBERT

Examiner

Thong H. Vu

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2142

1. Claims 1-34 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Elsey et al [Elsey 6,775,371 B1].

3. As per claim 1, Elsey discloses a network-based system for enabling users of the system to obtain current agent-status Information related to agents of an information-source facility connected to the network before initiating contact with the agent or agents of the information-source facility comprising:

a first server node connected to the information-source facility and to the network; a second server node connected to the first server node and to the network, the first server node accessible to the second server node [Elsey, a database server, voice server, data server, col 8 lines 12-28, Fig 1];

a network-capable appliance connected to the network, the second server node accessible to the network-capable appliance [Elsey, customer networks, Fig 1]and

a software application distributed on at least the first and second server-nodes, the software application enabling distribution of the agent status information [Elsey, connection status, col 26 lines 15-35] :

the user operating the network-capable appliance accesses the second server node, states the intent of the call [Elsey, the caller states his/her request, col 22 lines 43-53] and requests the agent-status information, the agent-status information accessed from the first server node by the second server node [Elsey, matching the caller's request, col 22 lines 43-53], based on the stated intent and is delivered to the requesting user [Elsey, operator prompts caller for reservation details, 214, Fig 11].

4. As per claim 19, Elsey discloses A method for enabling users connected to a network to obtain current agent-status information related to agents of an information-source facility connected to the network before initiating contact with the agent or agents of the information-source facility comprising the steps of:

(a) periodically compiling and preparing the agent-status information at the information-source facility [Elsey, a configurable period of time, col 23 lines 58-col 24 line 14];

(b) rendering the compiled agent-status information available in a network-connected server [Elsey, an available operator, col 22 lines 15-33]; and

Art Unit: 2142

(c) serving the agent-status information or a portion thereof to network-connected users over a network path upon request, based on a stated intent from the user [Elsey, the intent of interface is the ticket can be filled by the fulfillment agent, col 17 lines 3-21].

5. As per claims 2,20 Elsey disclose the network is a data packet-network [Elsey, Internet, col 14 lines 44].

6. As per claims 3,21 Elsey-Reynolds disclose the data-packet-network is the Internet network [Elsey, web based form, col 15 lines 5-15].

7. As per claims 4,22 Elsey-Reynolds disclose the information-source facility is a communication center marketing products and or service to the users [Elsey, a database server, voice server, data server, col 8 lines 12-28, Fig 1].

8. As per claims 5,24 Elsey-Reynolds disclose the agents are human resources employed by the communication [Elsey, operator, col 11 lines 7-14].

9. As per claims 6,25 Elsey-Reynolds disclose the agents are automated systems implemented at the communications center [Elsey, a plurality of directory assistant centers, col 14 lines 40-60].

Art Unit: 2142

10. As per claims 7,27 Elsey discloses the agent-status information includes a description of the agent and or agents capabilities, the number of calls waiting in the agent's or agents' queue or queues, and an estimated time for response by the agent or agents [Elsey, fulfillment agents, col 14 lines 40-60].

11. As per claims 8,28 Elsey discloses the number of calls waiting information and the estimated time for response information is averaged over a group of agents [Elsey, fulfillment agents, col 14 lines 40-60].

12. As per claims 9,29 Elsey discloses a number of calls waiting information and the estimated time for response information is specific to a specific agent user [Elsey, call waiting, col 22 lines 15-33; col 25 lines 23-36].

13. As per claims 10,30 Elsey discloses the agent-status information delivered to the requesting user is specific to the request initiated by the user [Elsey, current status, col 21 lines 16-30].

14. As per claims 11,31 Elsey discloses the agent-status information automatically updates periodically during a user session [Elsey, updates status, 224, Fig 12; period of time, col 11 lines 35].

15. As per claims 12,32 Elsey discloses the agent-status information is continually streamed to the requesting user during session [Esley, voice stream, col 8 lines 61-67].
16. As per claim 13, Elsey-Reynolds disclose the agent-status information is pulled from the first server node by the second server node according to the user's request [Elsey, a database server, voice server, data server, col 8 lines 12-28, Fig 1].
17. As per claim 14, Elsey discloses the agent-status information is pushed to the second server node by the first server node and is available to be pulled by the user as inherent feature of web based form.
18. As per claims 15,34 Elsey discloses the software application uses instant message technology in the transfer of agent-status information as inherent feature of Email [Esley, email, col 20 lines 42, col 29 line 3].
19. As per claim 16, Elsey discloses the software application uses streaming technology in the transfer of agent-status information [Esley, voice stream, col 8 lines 61-67].
20. As per claim 17, Elsey discloses the software application embeds (i.e.: insert) the agent-status information into a Web page requested by the user [Esley, insert, col 12 line 28].

Art Unit: 2142

21. As per claim 18, Elsey discloses the functions of the first and second server nodes are implemented within a single server node connected to the call center, the network, and accessible to the network-capable appliance as inherent feature of servers.

22. As per claim 26, Elsey discloses the agent status information is compiled using agent monitoring software [Elsey, monitoring, col 13 lines 30-50].

23. As per claim 33, Elsey discloses there are more than one server nodes in line on the network path, the server nodes hosted by the communication center [Elsey, a plurality of directory assistant centers, col 14 lines 40-60].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thong Vu*, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:00AM- 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Andrew Caldwell*, can be reached at (571) 272-3868. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval IPAIRI system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thong Vu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2142

